

embodiment, the compartment 150 can hold a starter material such as, for example, newspaper, kindling, cardboard, or the like.

At page 8, line, 13, please substitute the following paragraph:

a2 The upper cage member 160 includes a plurality of inverted U-shaped, or, alternatively, V-shaped, grate members 162 spaced in a parallel relation. The plurality of grate members 162 are connected to two longitudinally extending cross members 164, 166 for stability and rigidity. The upper cage member 160 is positioned over the U-shaped, or, alternatively, V-shaped, portion 130 of the grate members 112 of the base 110 to form the cavity or compartment 150 which separates the firelog 10 and prevents the firelog from directly contacting the wood or ceramic logs 20 placed on top of the U-shaped grate members 162 of the cage member 160 or on top of the front and rear portions 120, 140 of the grate members 112 of the base 110. This compartment draws attention to protecting the firelog and restricts access to the firelog from being crushed, broken open or poked at by fireplace tools.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A fireplace grate comprising a frame including a plurality of grate members and a plurality of cross members, said grate members and said cross members defining a platform and a substantially enclosed compartment, the compartment operative to hold a firelog and to prevent direct contact between the firelog and wood or ceramic logs placed on top of the platform.
2. (Amended) The fireplace grate of claim 1, wherein the frame includes a base defining a cavity and a cage member positioned on the base to define the compartment.
3. (Amended) The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the cage member is hinged to the base.
4. (Amended) The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the base is formed by the plurality of grate members connected by the plurality of cross members, the grate members including a U-shaped portion for supporting the firelog.